

CHAIRSHOTS

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AND NOW LADIES AND GENTLE MEN, W.C.W. PRESENTS
WILDCAT WILLIE! PICK THAT UP GARY... OK? GARY?

JOHN HATHAWAY



SHOOTKICK

by Jeff Bowdren

Well, maybe its been awhile, but I now return to my favorite Shootkick stomping grounds, the good folks at WCW. I recently had the (?) pleasure of attending one of those spectacular WCW house shows, held May 9 in Ft. Lauderdale. Let's give a big Shootkick to WCW for having 3 no-shows, with no offer of refunds and for featuring Barry Windham's name on the billboard outside the arena on the night of the show, when they knew full well he wouldn't be there! I have no problem with them not being able to retract newspaper ads on short notice, but to continue to advertise the guy at the arena that night is sort of ridiculous. We also had Rick Rude and one of the Nasty Boys no-show. Replacing Rude that night was Paul Orndorff, who better keep himself available for these replacement shots because judging by the way his arm looks, he won't be around too much longer. It was also a night out for the usual collection of degenerates and ner-do-wells, meaning of course that the usual group were all in attendance. We did our best to continue the tradition of "Front Row Section D" as we gave just about everyone some sort of grief. Sting seemed the most affected as he got a tad upset when we called him "an actor, not a wrestler". He then told us "why don't you guys go read the sheets or something". He got even angrier when I asked if I could borrow one of his since he was probably a subscriber like everyone else. We also asked Robert Fuller whether or not he saw any of the old rats since it had been about 20 years since he had been in Ft. Lauderdale. Quick thoughts about the show: Everyone seemed real lazy, like they had somehow gotten screwed by having to work the show...Have you gotten a load of the WCW mascot?...Cactus worked as a single against Saggs and took his traditional bump onto the ring announcer's table...And does Brian Anderson look like a dead ringer for his old man 20 years ago or what? Even down to the porkchop sideburns...Nick Patrick got a laugh when we asked him if it was true that Pee Wee Anderson could drink him under the table...

But the unquestioned hilite of the night was sitting ringside with our beloved editor Barry "Sorry, I'm just not into black women" Rose and giving shit to WCW ring announcer/former local indy weasel/ onetime supplier of jobbers/guy who still owes me a WCW shirt-David Pinzer. Dave came up with perhaps the best line of the night when Barry yelled out that, as an announcer, Pinzer was no Ron Lemieux. (Hey, who is?) Pinzer yells back, "Your right. I still have a job." OUCH! You gonna take that Ron? Dave pretty much made you his boy with that comment-he practically bitch slapped you-he pretty much owns you....(there...if that doesn't piss off Ron enough to get him to start writing again I don't know what will) The other good story about Pinzer was at the end of the show when he was saying good night to the fans and giving them the local times of the syndicated t.v. shows, the lady sitting next to me says that Dave had gotten the time on one of the shows wrong. I told Dave about the mistake and he says, "Ah, no one watches them anyway." OUCH!

On April 27, myself and the crew of deviates attended a card at a local high school-not to check out the bevy of nubile high school girls, but to see an indy cards. Aren't indy cards almost always a hoot? You go to them with such low expectations, and if you get any action what-so-ever, you feel somehow blessed. On this particular night, a couple of things hilited the card. We had a match between local guy Blaze Bigelow & "Odessa Slim", who was doing a hilarious impression of Dusty Rhodes. Bigelow was a veritable bump machine on this night, including getting thrown into the crowd, over the guardrail, etc. Former Notre Dame linebacker Ned Bolcar, a legit high school and college All-American, was a guest participant in a battle royal, which included two coaches from the high school where the event was being held. The night also featured a near riot before a tag team match between Red Roberts & Steve Collins and babyface team Phi Betta Slam. Here's what happened: Bolcar, who's been with the Dolphins for a couple of years, brings a few of the 'Fins to the show with him to root him on. Well, Roberts & Collins come to the ring and Roberts has a minituare football with him and throws it into the crowd towards the players. Silly Red forgot that the guys were offensive lineman and couldn't catch-which was okay because Red couldn't throw-and he whipped it over their heads. The balls is whipped back from the stands towards

the heels and hits Collins in the back of the head-the duo jump over the ring barrier towards the grandstands-and about 75 of our finest local gang members begin moving towards them. It was pretty scary-especially since the promotion had hired all of 2 off duty cops to work security. Way, way understaffed and a problem at many indy cards around the country. Anyway, Red & Steve decide to bail out and head towards the ring. The guys in my ground and myself breathed a sigh of relief and wondered how many people in the crowd were carrying sem-automatic weapons upon their persons'. By the way, it was celebrity sheet writer night at the matches as Dave Meltzer, Wade Keller, Alex Marvez, Steve Beverly & Dr. Mike Lano were at the matches. At least that's what we told the timekeeper, who after the matches was trying desperately to make sure we had the results of the matches so they'd get printed in the sheets. That night, in their Academy Award nominated roles, were Dave Flaherty as Dave Meltzer, Barry Rose as Wade Keller, Robert Mitchell as Dr. Mike Lano, and myself as my personal hero in life, Alex "Don't mention my name in this rag without mentioning the Miami Herald" Marvez. The part of Steve Beverly was played by the Invisible Man, which is pretty much par for the course if you know Steve. I was thinking of casting myself as wrestling most respected columnist Bruce Mitchell, but I know that Bruce just hates that name dropping stuff and besides, my wife certainly wouldn't appreciate the implication that somehow our bathrooms look like Mitchell's.....I'm outta here.....



AND STILL MORE BOWDREN...

Just a quick, hostile note regarding WCW's recent "Slamboree". I had just finished watching the absolutely mind-blowing, 5-star plus tag match featuring Cactus & Sullivan vs. the Nasty Boys when Gene Okerlund begins to interview Lou Thesz & Verne Gagne. The four guys I watched the show with and myself are still talking about the afore-mentioned match when I hear Verne say something to the effect of: "We have to have somebody look at what happened in the last match. That's not wrestling. We can't have that."

Hmmmmmm.....

Excuse me while I catch my breath....

Hey Verne, you stupid old baldheaded moronic liverspotted senile overrated overpushed nothing happening has been douchebag! Where in the hell do you get off trying to spout your oldtimer bullshit about how great things were back when, by telling the viewers what is or isn't wrestling? That's not wrestling? What is? You slapping a headlock on someone for 17 minutes while the crowd falls asleep? You pushing your goofy no talent butt ugly son as a legitimate main eventer? Is that what wrestling is, Mr. so-damn-smart-I-bankrupted-my-own-company? Listen pal, while you were out there on the road acting out the words to the Rolling Stones "Brown Sugar", the business you made a living at was evolving. Of course, you were so busy trying to convince the marks in Minnesota that you were some kind of wrestling God, you probably didn't notice.

Hey you old blowhole, during your day (like 25 or 30 years ago), I'll admit that you were a damn good draw-don't ask me how, what with that dynamic dropkick as a finisher, but you were-but don't stand there with that smug, self-righteous look on your face and presume to tell me or anyone else what is or isn't wrestling. Excuse me now while I leave. Just thinking of your pompous ass makes me want to vomit. Hall of Fame my ass!

BUMPS & GRINDS

by Mike Terry

It's the morning of Slamboree as this column is written...already two days over deadline.....wouldn't want the publisher to dock my pay, so away we go.

I'm wondering how WCW can shoot itself in the foot again with no solid Slamboree main event to promote. Vader-Rude was handled fairly well, though it seemed rushed to me. But with no opponent for Flair and no real issue other than Flair's sudden dislike of Col. Parker, once again this'll be a strictly hardcore buy. And what the hell is the deal with that briefcase? Did you understand that whole thing? Then you're a better person than I.

It's no secret I'm not enthusiastic about the forthcoming Flair-Hogan pairing, so take this for what it's worth. I'll bet that, for the financial package being offered Hulk Hogan for this deal, maybe they could have had another individual, who's not only hotter than Hogan among both hardcore and casual wrestling fans, he's also more credible and he would have delivered more holler for the dollar where it counts--the box office and pay-per-view buys. That man is Roddy Piper. Think of how he would have set WCW on fire. Will Hogan do that? I think not. Think of the possible matchups with Piper! Whether he was heel (my preference) or babyface, the man would have popped some houses.

I keep hearing about all the mainstream press Hogan's going to generate. First, I don't think it'll happen to any great degree. Second, so what if there is a stampede of reporters drooling at the thought of interviewing Hulk Hogan? Will that translate in to increased gates? Will mainstream America see Hogan on the Tonight Show and then be sure to watch WCW Saturday Night so they can see him again? No way! And if they don't do that, they'll never find out about whatever "issue" is out there to sell the PPV. Will a big interview in the Chicago Tribune translate in to a bigger buy rate for the Great American Bash PPV? Come on! Be real! Hogan's old news and there's nothing that I can imagine that WCW can do to change that. The press will cover him in its typical tongue-in-cheek fashion because he's basically perceived as a big muscle-headed buffoon. His credibility is right about zero level. Hogan didn't do squat for the WWF when he was brought back for Wrestlemania IX, and he'll do even less for WCW.

Piper, on the other hand.....just think about it.

If Tatanka comes from the Lumbee tribe, does Chief Jay Strongbow come from the Mumbly tribe?

Lawlerpaloozers: on Helen Hart: "She has to put tenderizer on her oatmeal."....."I went in to House of Pancakes the other day and ordered pigs-in-a-blanket. They brought me a picture of Mo and Mabel in bed."

Brain Gems: on Maxx Payne: "He used to be a brain donor.".....and, finally: "You know what a duplex is, don't you? It's two suplexes."

Other quotables: Rick Rude on Dusty Rhodes and Sting: "Well, if it isn't Free Willy and the Stink.".....Rude on Vader: "You're a role model. Lift your shift up and model some rolls.".....Johnny Polo on the 1-2-3 Kid: "(He's the) poster boy for Pampers.".....Polo on Nicoli Volkoff: "He so poor, he goes to Kentucky Fried Chicken and licks other people's fingers."

And how about Brian Armstrong's necklace tattoo. As Gorilla Monsoon might say, "Musta seemed like a good idea late one Saturday night."

If you missed WWF Mania a few Saturdays ago, you missed a tour of Titan Towers. Pretty interesting. Todd interviewed Vince Russo, some graphic artists, and we even got to see Vince McMahon's office. Talk about ostentatious. Lots of deep reds--the walls, the carpet. Reminded me more of a bordello. The only thing that wasn't red (that day) was McMahon's suit. Try bright yellow. It's that oh-so-hip Tweety Bird look.

Much as I generally respect Ric Flair, I do have a gripe. You know that little deal he does where he's whipped in to a corner, flips over and outside the ropes, then runs the apron? Sorry, but that really needs to be retired. It's certainly a cliché at this point, and really looks choreographed. Where is he running to, anyway, when he runs along the apron? We never know because he never gets there!

Finally, I'll bet most bookers and wrestling executive are bustin' their own kneecaps because they weren't first to think of trying to sign Tonya Harding. They're probably also pissed they weren't first to come up with the Singapore caning match. That "distinction" goes to ECW. Figures.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

by Dave Scherer

We're gonna do something different this month. I am just gonna recap the 5/14 ECW show because it was, quite frankly, the most fun I ever had at a wrestling show. Hopefully, after reading this, you'll see why. We sat in our usual venue, the bleachers. Our section has kind of developed a comradeship. All of our regulars were there, and I can say without hesitation that it is the greatest group of fans ever to watch a wrestling show. We spent the half hour before the show verbally lambasting the various mutants in attendance. And they were out in full force. Must have been the heat. After 30 minutes of the verbal abuse that our section heaped on the crowd, I had already gotten my 12 dollars worth and we haven't even had our first match. Anyhow, the ring announcer comes out with a bag of shirts and hats, which he throws into the crowd. This is a great sight as these products of inbreeding will practically kill each other for a 5 dollar hat. . . Da opener saw the Rockin' Rebel lose to Tommy "Wet" Dreamer when Dreamer hit him with a Thesz press. End came when Rebel had Dreamer pinned, but pulled him up when his manager Jason offered him cash to beat Dreamer up more, which of course cost him the match. The Ref in this match was a weasly kid with a stupid haircut. The crowd hated him. * 1/2 . . . Next we had jobronie extraordinaire, Mikey Whipreck, defending his title against 911. As soon as we saw 911 come out, we started a chant of "Do the ref" which was a request that 911 use his signature (and only?) move, the chokeslam, on the geek boy ref. After giving Mikey a few chokeslams, we got seriously intense with the "DO THE REF" chant, and a lot of people were doing it with us. So our man, 911, looks up at us and chokeslammed both Mikey and the ref, to a deafening roar of approval from the crowd. For good measure, he slammed the ref about three more times. It was great stuff. This was a perfect example of how a 1 star squash can be as much fun as an All Japan classic. . . Jimmy Snuka beats Kevin Sullivan after Snuka's manager, Hunter Q. Robbins III, tripped Sully, who was distracted when the Sandman came out and took Woman from ringside. This was another great example of what psychos Sullivan and the fans are. Sully started the match by grabbing a frying pan that one of the masked mutants brought in with him and wailing Snuka with it. He then used chairs, that fans handed him, on the Fly and gave him some groinshots with a ratchet wrench. He also used two different guys metal crutches. Snuka got a little offense in, but it was mostly Sully. After the match, Sullivan attacked Robbins and used his cane to give him crotch shots which looked nasty as hell. Sully then pulled off Robbins pants and gave him another. A guy in front of me yelled "He (Hunter) has a fuckin' woody." And it appeared he did. Then Sully takes the house mic and says "Philly's the most hostile city in America? Fuck the USA!" Which met with a roar of approval. On his way out he ran after all of the photographers. ***. . . It's time for the "Singapore Caning Match between Peaches/Tommy Cairo vs Woman/Sandman. It was obvious by the spiked boots that Woman had on she was not going to do much grapplin'. Like last month, Sandman lit up a butt on the apron and cockily smoked it. Classic stuff. It was a good match with Cairo doing a lot of nasty suplexes on Sandman along with some wild stuff on the floor. End came when Peaches pinned a nuked Sandman. Ring announcer says that Sandman will get 6 strokes. We yell "They lowered it to four!" They pulled down his drawers, exposing an ass I never wanted to see, and Peaches wailed him twice with a bamboo stick before Woman threw powder. The Heels, if you can call them that in Philly, attacked the faces, cracking the crap out of both Peaches and Cairo with the stick in a wonderfully delicious display of violence. The last shot that Peaches took from Woman was right across the hamstring and shredded the pole. Ouch! Sandman lit another cigarette. *** 1/2. . . After intermission, Geek Boy Ref comes back out. We boo. Then, 911 comes out and chokeslams him again. We pop big. Paul E. is a genius...Next we had Tazmaniac and Pit Bull in "ehh" match. Pit Bull did a ton of restholds. Taz did some suplexes and when they wrestled it was good. Pit Bull got the win, but I forget how. * 1/2. . . Time for the 8 man elimination between Mr. Hughes, Shane Douglas, and the Public Enemy vs Bruise Brothers, JT Smith and Hawk, who no showed and I did not hear any mention of why. To be honest, it was better without him any way. Shane takes the mic and says he has a message for Atlanta, and proceeds to rip Flair. He hates WCW. I can't say I blame him. We had an absolute ball in this match. The Public Enemy tried like hell to make the crowd, and us in particular, hate them. Sorry guys, we love ya! Whenever they do a hot move, they do their rap dance. A lot of us were doing it with them, including a great guy in front of me who appeared in his late fifties and was telling hot mutant jokes all night. Seeing him dancing was friggin' great. We kept chanting "Rocco" until old Ted Petty finally gave in and started playing to us. We even made him laugh a few times, and one of the best spots of the night was when, almost in (mock) appreciation he scratched his head while he flipped us the bird, then turned around and laughed. Great stuff. Shane, Hughes, and the Bruises all got counted out while brawling outside. They, again, caused major damage destroying the entrance area of the building. There was a huge crowd so they didn't brawl into the stands as they usually do, as there would be nowhere for the fans to go. The Enemy destroyed Smith two on one for a while before JT, of course, gets two surprise pins. I absolutely love the PE. They are friggin' great. *** 1/2 . . . Five Stars. I very rarely give out the grade. That is what happens when a match is perfect, when it could not possibly be any better. That was our main event. Words can't describe the match between Terry Funk\Arn Anderson vs Sabu\Bobby Eaton. Sabu had his hands heavily taped, as they were broken after all. Terry Funk is God, that's all I can say. Arn appeared to eat up wrestling in front of a rabid crowd. Then again, the way he has been misused at WCW, that doesn't surprise me in the least. And Bobby Eaton was Bobby Eaton. This match was perfection. Every hot move you have ever seen these guys do, they did. Funk even missed a moonsault. Funk and Eaton went up into the "eagle's nest" where Funk piledrove him, and the crowd was not sure if either, or both, were going to fall 20 feet to the ground. After a ton of abuse, Paul E. "called" the Public Enemy on his phone. They attack Funk, but Arn makes the save and fights them off. Arn then holds Sabu and Funk goes for a chairshot, but missed, hitting Arn. Arn then turns on Funk hitting him "in both knees" with the chair. Sabu makes a bloody and battered Funk submit to a leglock. Afterward, Terry Funk calls for a knife. Amazingly, in a crowd where criminals are seemingly commonplace, no one gave him one, which made me happy because he had delivered enough and sure as hell did not need to do anything else at this point. He did however give himself chair and "frying pan" shots, which I believe he did since Sabu wasn't going to do his post match destruction of tables. All of these guys were great, but special kudos have to go to the Lord Of the Ring, Mr. Terry Funk who at 50 is the most amazing wrestler on this planet. Thus ended another fabulous night at the Arena\Bingo parlor. Until next time...

Welcome to Smoky Mountain Hotspots, whether you like it or not! The big news since the last report is the arrival of Jake Roberts in SMW and his quick win of the SMW Title. Jake has went through a lot of changes since his debut as an almost skinny babyface in Florida back in the 1970's. My first personal memories of Jake were from his first stint in the Mid-Atlantic area, where he was actually a fast-moving competitor whose signature move was the fastest knee lift in the business. He was still a babyface then, but he soon turned heel in Florida under Kevin Sullivan's tutelage, where he developed the low keyed sinister style of interview which made him one of the most credible "bad guys" of the early '80's, leading to successful stints in Georgia (during the golden years on TBS) and Mid-South/UWF during the Watts heyday. But like so many top stars of that era, he was lured to McMahonland by the fame and fortune offered by the rapidly expanding WWF. He had a long run there, and while his ring skills declined (as they so often do when wrestlers enter the low workrate Titan territory) his evil personality remained intact as he used his snakes to terrorize opponents such as Rick Steamboat and Randy Savage. He turned babyface for a while, but with Jake it's obvious that he was born to be a heel. When Jake debuted in WCW in August 1992 with a brutal blindside assault on Sting, it became the most memorable angle of the ill-fated reign of Bill Watts. But Jake has also been involved in some of the most idiotic angles in the history of wrestling. Andre the Giant's "heart attack", the squashing of Damian the snake by Earthquake, the Ultimate Warrior cobra strike, and the scene from Halloween Havoc '92 where Jake was bitten by his own snake are among those that come to mind. Jake's recent efforts in Mexico's AAA promotion have set new standards for drawing incredible heat while doing very little in the ring. With his once slender frame now carrying a sizeable girth, Jake relied on his sinister personality (not to mention the rabid popularity of opponent Konnan el Barbaro) to make up for his lack of activity inside the ring. It worked very well, as Jake had to be sneaked out of the arena in the trunk of a car after causing Konnan to lose a "retirement" match against Cien Caras at TripleMania '93.

Thus, Jake Roberts arrived at a TV taping in Harriman, Tennessee with a lot of history behind him, but carrying a lot of baggage as well. Workrate probably means less to the average SMW fan than it means to the typical fan nowadays, but the presence of numerous good workers in the area can't help but show up a wrestler who does nothing in the ring. As a result, Jake's early matches in SMW have been a study in contrasts. The fans fell silent during the match where Jake won the title from Dirty White Boy, but he got over fine during his threatening interviews. At Volunteer Slam III on 5/20 at the Knoxville Coliseum, the Jake-White Boy rematch drew little heat (and deservedly so since the match itself was little more than a series of restholds), but then came the angle. With the ref KO'ed and White Boy tied to the ropes by Jake's wrist tape, Jake grabbed Dirty White Girl and for several minutes he played with her like a toy, and in doing so he also played with the crowd like a toy, as he had some of the rowdier fans so angry they came close to crossing the ring barrier to make the save themselves. When Jake finally drilled White Girl with a DDT, the crowd went nuts. Jake fled from the arena via the main exit (rather than back to the dressing room), accompanied by the Knoxville police department for his own protection.

In other Volunteer Slam results, Tracy Smothers beat Kendo the Samurai, The Thrillseekers beat Well Dunn, Brian Lee & Chris Candido beat the Rock & Roll Express to retain the tag belts, and Bruiser Bedlam beat Randy Savage (who wrestled extensively in this area many years ago) with a little help from Dory Funk Jr..

Constructive criticism department: Too many matches in SMW have the same finishes. This wasn't the case in SMW's early days, but in recent months it's been common for bouts in Knoxville, Johnson City, and other towns to conclude with the exact same finishing sequence. This isn't like the WWF where a match in San Francisco can end the same way as a match the night before in Pittsburgh and no one will know the difference. These towns are only a short distance apart and a lot of fans attend matches in more than one city. Well Dunn desperately need a big win to set them up as serious opponents for the Thrillseekers. Their DQ loss to Scott & Steve Armstrong, who were only doing fill-in work, on the recent Johnson City card was inexplicable. With the Heavenly Bodies gone, the heel teams in the area need to be put over more than ever to build their credibility.

FANWEEK!!! The second annual Fanweek tour will take place August 5 thru 14. A four night (8/5 - 8/9) package will include the Knoxville Night Of Legends nostalgia card, Fire on the Mountain III in Johnson City, a TV taping, the "Battle of Beckley" in West Virginia, lunch with the babyfaces, a cookout with the heels, and more. The nine night package (8/5 - 8/14) includes all of the above plus the King of the Mountain tournament in Morristown, two house shows, a sightseeing tour, interview sessions with SMW stars, a training session with Tim Horner, and other good clean fun activities. Last year's tour was awesome, so for prices & registration info call Brian "I love 70's wrestling" Hildebrand at 615-585-8454 or Pam Lawson at 615-587-1273, or write for info to Smoky Mountain Wrestling, PO Box 1279, Morristown, TN 37816-1279.

Log On, Sit Down, Tune In, Hang Out

Jeffrey Cohen

Earlier this year, the company I work for freed up the cash to buy a modem for my home computer. I went for a Supra FaxModem 14.4 LC, currently on *MacWeek's* Top 10 Software purchases list. They were willing to cough up the \$\$\$ because I would then be able to work from home on certain projects if the weather was bad, if I couldn't come in to the office, or if I just felt like it.

Along with the modem came CompuServe software for a free demo. I read through the information, then spoke to my more Mac-savvy friends. They suggested I opt for America OnLine, which they hyped as "more friendly, more geared for the Mac, and – most importantly – cheaper."

I had a demo copy sent to me, guaranteeing me 10 hours free the first month. Five hours each subsequent month would go for \$9.95. Additional hours over that would be \$3.50. The first two hours were spent going through the various forums, speaking with a wide range of lunatics. Ultimately, I found the wrestling forums. And herein lies the rub: I thought that by going online, I could weed out the marks and speak directly to a mass of hardcores. Instead, if anything, there are more marks than you can shake a floppy diskette at.

AOL has a flurry of pro wrestling forums. Some of the topics deal with basic stuff – "WWF Info," "WCW Info," and "ECW Info." Then it gets more esoteric – "Bret Hart Fan Club" and "Tonya Harding Wrestles?" The Undertaker and other fan favorites gain considerable space. As I've said before, the appeal of the Undertaker somehow eludes me. He is a decent worker, but the gimmick dies the minute you see him grapple more than twice. Yet there is a whole topic devoted to speculation on what form he will take when he returns. Some marks wholeheartedly believe that Titan Sports is sifting through their online entries, culling demographic material for upcoming angles and feuds. *Haw!*

A couple of hardcores do make their presence known. Dave(s) Prazak and Scherer venture entries whenever they feel the need. Mostly, the extreme, sheet-reading 'cores try to steer clear of the cattle, who ask "What was Razor Ramon called in the WCW?"

Occasionally, you get the absolute mark, who boasts to know more about wrestling than anyone else on that topic. He is usually a newcomer, just entering and seeing the previous 10-15 nonsense entries. Floated with self-awareness, he prints "I HAVE WATCHED PRO WRESTLING FOR 12 YEARS AND THE CURRENT STATE OF THE BUSINESS IS PATHETIC. WHERE ARE THE GREAT WORKERS LIKE WAHOO MCDANIEL AND BRICKHOUSE BROWN?"

Of course, the next five entries in that topic will scream at the guy to tone himself down. Within 24 hours, he will post an apologetic, "Sorry. I am new user and was just finding out about these topics. Where is Haystacks Calhoun?"

Every weekend, there are live forums, where people can logon and converse through the magic of interactivity. Recently, there was much discussion about the Flair/Steamboat rematch on *WCW Saturday Night* and where it would lead. One scholar opined, "The should have the rematch at *Slamboree*. Flair and Steamboat should qualify for the Legends Match after fighting each other for 20 years."

A heckler kept throwing in comments about college basketball, and was being rebuffed by the 'host,' a high school

student. After 15 minutes on inanity, I fled.

The best way to get in touch with people is to place a few strategic messages, and let the hardcores find out. Prazak and Scherer both sent me personal e-mail (electronic mail) before my first online week was over. Thus far, we have all been amazed by the number of marks who still refuse to believe the most basic facts.

"A masked Barry Windham runs in after the Flair/Steamboat rematch and attacks Ric," posted one 'core. "I can't believe Windham is getting another run at the title," responded some genius. "Where is Chris Benoit? Or Mr. Perfect?"

Mostly, I have been using my AOL connection of checking out baseball box scores every night before they appear in the next morning's papers. This keeps me in touch for my rotisserie league duties as Commissioner. But at least once a week I drift back to the wrestling topics.

The most recent topic is a list, in the *MAD Magazine* vein, of "You Know You Watch Too Much Wrestling When..."

- You attend a wedding, and as the groom enters the church, you scream, "Walk that aisle, brother!"

- Your dorm plans a pillow fight after finals, and you're kicked out for shooting.

- You watch the Julio Cesar Chavez-Frankie Randall rematch and wonder why they let Dusty book the finish.

Some marks wholeheartedly believe that Titan Sports is sifting through their online entries, culling demographic material for upcoming angles and feuds. Haw!

I contributed a few of these, but the majority are either repetitive or unamusing. Some people have a very high opinion of themselves, and are constantly critiquing the topics as they develop. "When did this turn into a discussion of the Four Horsemen? Why don't you start your own topic if you insist on dragging out who the best foursome was or could have been?"

I try to stay above the fray unless I have something imperative to add. Generally, someone else will beat me to the punch as I scroll through the entries. I have found that due to time constraints, I cannot place entries in nine or 10 different topics and then remember which ones I added information to. I now confine my remarks to the two main sections for the two major promotions. I have little to say or suggest to ECW or USWA fans.

Experimenting with the Internet, there don't seem to be any pro wrestling categories. But that's just as well. There are supposed to be 700,000 people using AOL. There are several million who use the Internet. I can just imagine what the response would be nationwide, if I sent a message through the Internet, saying, "Just heard that Ric Flair sprained his knee and is retiring. Sid Vicious returning to take his slot."

Eddie Gilbert interview tape from Bob Barnett is great. Mine cuts off right as Eddie is going into the Jeff Gaylord sneak attack. Funny stories, amazing footage. I wanted more about Missy and Madusa, but hey, you can't have everything. Order for \$20 from Bob Barnett, 3101 Fifth St. #2, Santa Monica, CA 90405.

CHAIRSHOTS MAILBOX

10117 W. OAKLAND PARK BLVD., #341, SUNRISE, FL 33351



Dear (?) Barry,
Will you please make up your freakin' mind? What's it gonna be? Florida or New York? Or Something in between? A few comments-Jeff's SHOOTKICK column in issue #22 concerning Jim Cornette and Smoky Mountain..HE'S RIGHT! I'm happy to see someone have the balls to speak up when something is wrong/bad with America's favorite promotion. I'm a Cornette fan, but he's still capable of making some bad calls (like Furnas and Prince Kharis, which I understand Mr. C may not have had much choice about due to office politics and financial investors). Whitehead's SM HOTSPOTS was again an excellent piece. I loved his quotation marks around the word injury and his explanation. I did that often when I was writing for different sheets and at times got a lot of "heat" for it. Some fans didn't understand that "injury" (with quotation marks) meant it was a work. Terry's BUMPS & GRINDS reminds me a lot of a column Bob Ivy used to write called "Cause It's Rasslin", complete with lines of the month and pointing out the inconsistencies of the wrestling world. And, if he's interested, I really do like Lawler better, and not just because he lives 15 blocks from my house. Anyways, keep up the good work on 'SHOTS, although I'm missing the letters page. I also wish fellow superfans like Lano and Lemieux could get along. Why do fans feel like they have to feud with each other?

J.D. MCKAY, JR.
MEMPHIS, TN

Barry,
Please don't kayfabe the readers about your leg injury. The fact is that instead of sliding into home, you dropkicked the catcher. When you were called out anyway, you did a Sabu moonsault onto the bat rack, splitting fourteen Louisville Sluggers into toothpicks. Then you took the wood splinters and tried to Abdullahize the umpire. By this time the umpire and opposing team had dismantled the backstop and wrapped the barbed wire around the remaining bats and gave you some stiff shots in the legs. But you've invented a new sport--SHOOT BASEBALL, IT'S REAL!

EDDIE GOLDMAN
NYC, NY

Dear Barry,
I was curious about your subscription renewal policy. Is it possible to renew for more than just \$5/5 issues? Could I send in \$10/10 issues or more? Or do you want to limit it to just the \$5 package? Some sheet editors don't mind longer term subscriptions while some prefer to keep them short term for easier bookkeeping or, if they were to stop publishing the sheet, they would have a smaller amount of money to

refund to subscribers. Or should I say those that choose to refund money. Like many others, I have money coming that I will probably never see. In the case of CHAIRSHOTS, I hope it is around for many moons to come as it is one of my favorites. Keep telling it as you all see it, CS is never a dull read.

JOHN C. MURTON
CHICAGO, IL

(ED. NOTE: This was one of a handful of letters that I've received concerning the CS subscription policy. When I originally started this bizarre fanzine a year and a half ago I had no intention of going past twelve months of publishing. I've enjoyed doing CS, but wanted to avoid joining the ranks of past newsletter editors who either had to return a ton of money or didn't bother at all. Hopefully, CS will be around for a while to come, but if not, I know that I won't have to take out a bank loan to repay our readers.)

BR-
Now that Missy Hyatt's been "canned" (get it?), if there is a god up there PLEASE let her appear in PLAYBOY soon! (Or HUSTLER, or HIGH SOCIETY, or BIG BOOBS MONTHLY, or...)

J.Z. TRAVIS
SOMEWHERE IN CANADA

Barry,
Thanks for sending me a recent issue of CHAIRSHOTS. I loved it. This is how I like my wrestling sheets. Just a bunch of guys shootin' the shit about graps. Not too serious and not all buy rates and other boring stuff. Keep up the good work.

DAVID GRAW
COLLIERVILLE, TN

CHAIRSHOTS MAILBOX IS ONCE AGAIN OPEN!! CS WELCOMES ALL LETTERS, COMMENTS AND CRITICISMS. ALL LETTERS ARE PRESUMED FOR PUBLICATION UNLESS REQUESTED OTHERWISE. LETTERS MAY BE EDITED FOR LENGTH AND/OR CLARITY, BUT THIS CAN BE AVOIDED BY WRITING A SHORT, LEGIBLE LETTER.

5/10/94

JEEZUS ROSE!

The time between issues of Chairshots is even longer than the name of this town! Are you OK?

B. Bigelow

TAI MATAMAHAKATANGIANGAHOAIAI KOTAMATEATU RIRIKAPRIMA/NGAUKHUNI KUPUKAWHE N'AKITANATAHU
New Zealand

P.3382

POSTCARD

B.M. ROSE
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Sucker Punch

BY BARRY ROSE



Every once in a while I'll read something that really frosts my butt. I'm talking deep freeze, if you will. Why is it that certain wrestling writers and columnists feel this uncontrollable urge to try and make a negative from something so blatantly positive? Let me introduce you to two recent examples of authors trying to "rain on our parade." Marianne Ryan, in her recent column in "Wrestling Chatterbox", proceeds to spew forth some half baked explanation about why she is confused over all of the hoopla surrounding the Shawn Michaels-Razor Ramon Ladder Match at WrestleMania 10. Such enlightened statements like "yet the same people who moan about not wanting to pay for a WWF pay-per-view because of all the gimmicks are the same ones who thought the gimmick match was the best one," and "But I do have a warning for all of those folks who awarded this match four stars: be careful of what you wish for, you just might get it. In other words, be careful what matches you rave over because we may just end up with more gimmicks, only this time with less talented wrestlers." I am one of the people who "moan" about not wanting to dish out the bucks for a whiff PPV, not only because of the gimmicks, but also because of the lack of actual wrestling. However, comparing the 4+ star Ladder Match to the other gimmicks in the fed is ludicrous! Remember that amazing "blindfold" match between Jake Roberts and Rick Martel? It sucked till the high heavens! What about if any of us had paid money to see the sumo match between Earthquake and Yokozuna? Boring, dull and foolish are just three words that come to mind, none of which could apply to the ladder match. And, this statement about not praising the match because we might get inferior ladder matches seems pointless. The seventies were full of all types of gimmick matches, some of them good, others not. But it was more important who the actual combatants were, not the style of match. In closing, Marianne, if I see a ladder match advertised between Jim Duggan and Papa Shango, I'll avoid it like the plague. And so will most hardcores. My next example is my old pal from Minneapolis, the little Torchster himself, ladies and gentlemen, Wade Keller (Wade, you didn't think I'd ease up just because you said some nice things about us, did ya?). Wade's BBL after WCW's "Spring Stampede" read something like "Why Steamboat-Flair Doesn't Deserve Praise." Huh! A good match, while maybe below par from their classic confrontations from five years ago (or 15 years ago for that matter), and it doesn't deserve praise? I'm missing something here, folks! Isn't the purpose of writing and/or publishing a wrestling newsletter to enjoy our sport/entertainment? I know it is for me. A case could be made that I am just a fan who isn't in this for the money, while Keller draws a nice check from doing the Torch. But, I've got a feeling that ol' Wade does have an affinity for the graps, or he wouldn't be doing his sheet in the first place. My advice to both Wade and Ms. Ryan-LIGHTEN UP! Remember, you watch wrestling because you love it, not in spite of it. Don't try to tear down what others may have enjoyed just for the purpose of playing devil's advocate.

MISC. STUFF...Anybody see Carlos Rey's letter (he of the now infamous phony letter writing scandal from last year) in the recent Observer? I know for a fact the Hialeah, FL native actually penned this one (opposed to the last one, and I'm still hearing different theories as to who the author of that one was), but maybe Carlos should claim that someone wrote this one also. Comparing Terry Funk to Cien Caras? Hoo, boy! Lay off the tequila, amigo!...I'd like to toss out a few quick plugs. Georgiann Makropoulos' "Wrestling Chatterbox" 23-44 30th Dr., Astoria, NY 11102-3252 (\$2.50) reminds me of the way wrestling sheets used to be in the early hardcore days, and considering the Georgianne has been doing some type of a wrestling publication for the last twenty some years, that should come as no shock. Check it out....If you like Jeff Bowdren's views on the wrestling biz, you may want to see how he feels about football or more specifically, Football videos. The J-man is now a contributing writer to the prestigious "Football Trader's Network" PO Box 119, Belcamp, MD 21017 (c/o Scott Holcomb) and no doubt will have controversial opinions on many pigskin happenings. That about wraps it up. See ya next issue. And, remember- You watch wrestling because you love it!

HARDCORE

BY JOHN HIRACOCK (A CANDID MANING MEMBER OF THE SCOT HUDSON FANCLUBS!)

IT REALLY MAKES YOU WONDER WHAT THE HELL IS **W.C.W.** THINKING.



IT DOES NOT TAKE A GENIUS THAT **W.C.W.** HAS CORNERED ALL THE GREAT "MIC" TALENT.



ALL THEY NEED NOW IS JUMBO JIM ROSS AND IT'S A CLEAN SWEEP. THEY NEED A GREAT MANAGER TOO!



THAT EVEN IS TRUE CONSIDERING EVERYTIME MEAN GENE TALKS,



I CAN'T HELP BUT HEAR GOBBLE? GOBBLY GOOKER? YOU'RE THE GOBBLY GOOKER!



WHAT A S#!P!
YUK!
YUK!

TONY "SHA VANT TOE" IS TECHNICAL, VERY STEADY AND DEPENDABLE.



"MENCY! MENCY!"
DA BOOGIE MAN IS FEELING GOOD!

JESSE NEEDS TO DO HIS HOMEWORK ON JUST WHAT **W.C.W.** IS TRYING TO SELL.



WATCH THE T.O. ONCE IN AWHILE WILL YA GUY?

BUT HE CAN GET PRESS IN HOLLYWOOD CIRCLES THAT FEW CAN GET.



GORDON JUST HAS THAT CLASSIC VOICE THAT CAN ALWAYS SOUND RIGHT.



HIS FACE IS A CRIMSON MASK!
OL GORDON IS A LEGEND!

I LIKE CHRIS CHISE AND LARRY Z TOO. A TECHNICAL TEAM ALMOST WORTH GETTING-UP AT 9:00 AM FOR!



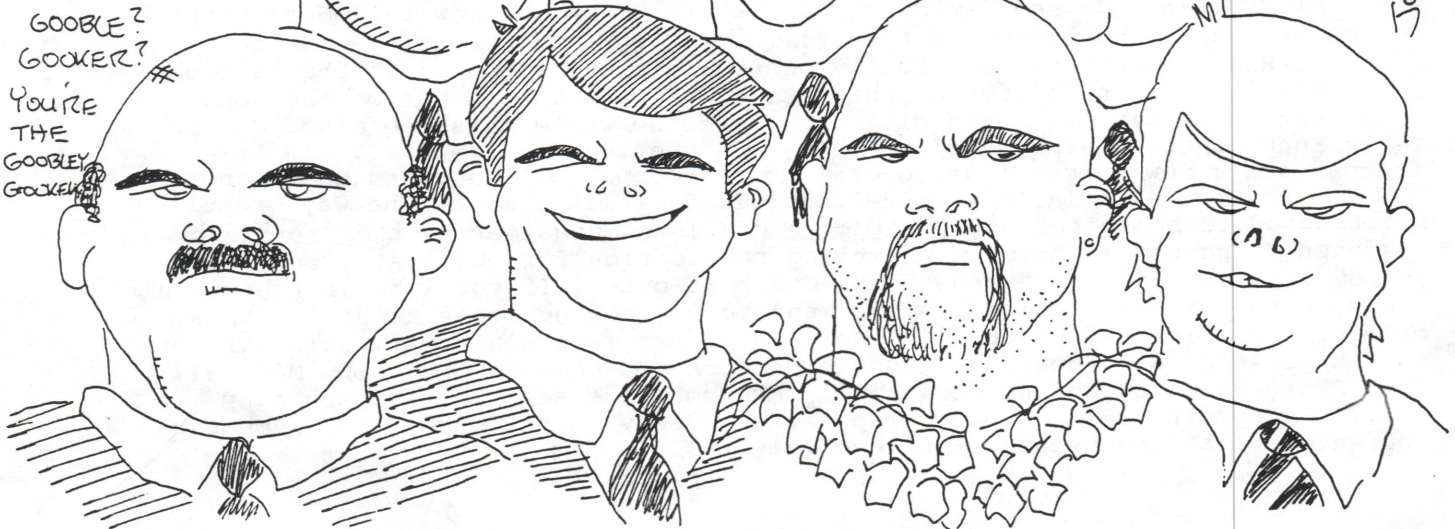
BOBBY THE BRAIN IS QUICK AND FUNNY. A WELCOME ADDITION. BURBON STREET ANYONE?



ALL THIS TALENT AND FOR WHAT? TO COUL A MATCH WITH UNCLE FRED VENES JOHNNY B. BAD. GET SOME TALENT WILL YA!



GOBBLE? GOOKER? YOU'RE THE GOBBLY GOOKER!



John Hiracock #5.